

## CLAIMS

1. A method for deleting stored digital data from a write-once memory device, said method comprising:

5 (a) providing a write-once memory array comprising a plurality of memory cells, wherein some of the cells are in an original digital state and others of the cells are in a programmed digital state, and wherein the states of the memory cells represent a stored digital file;

(b) receiving a delete command associated with the file; and  
then

10 (c) over-writing at least a portion of the stored digital file with a destructive pattern, said pattern switching at least some of the memory cells associated with the digital file to the programmed digital state.

2. A method for deleting stored digital data from a three-dimensional memory array, said method comprising:

15 (a) providing a three-dimensional memory array comprising a plurality of memory cells, wherein some of the cells are in an original digital state and others of the cells are in a programmed digital state, and wherein the states of the memory cells represent a stored digital file;

(b) receiving a delete command associated with the file; and  
20 then

(c) over-writing at least a portion of the stored digital file with a destructive pattern, said pattern switching at least some of the memory cells associated with the digital file to the programmed digital state.

3. A method for deleting stored digital data from a write-once memory device, said method comprising:

25 (a) providing a write-once, three-dimensional memory array comprising a plurality of memory cells, wherein some of the cells are in an original digital state and others of the cells are in a programmed digital state, and wherein the states of the memory cells represent a stored digital file;

(b) receiving a delete command associated with the file; and  
then

(c) over-writing at least a portion of the stored digital file with  
a destructive pattern, said pattern switching at least some of the memory cells  
5 associated with the digital file to the programmed digital state.

4. The method of Claim 1, 2, or 3 wherein the stored digital file  
comprises addressing information that identifies memory cell addresses  
associated with the stored digital file; and wherein the at least a portion of the  
stored digital file that is over-written in (c) consists essentially of the  
10 addressing information.

5. The method of Claim 1, 2, or 3 wherein the at least a portion of  
the stored digital file that is over-written in (c) consists essentially of the entire  
stored digital file.

6. The method of Claim 1, 2, or 3 wherein (c) comprises  
15 over-writing a plurality of memory cells associated with the stored digital file  
substantially simultaneously.

7. The method of Claim 1, 2, or 3 wherein said pattern switches  
substantially all of the over-written memory cells associated with the digital file  
to the programmed digital state.

8. The method of Claim 1, 2, or 3 wherein the at least a portion of  
20 the stored digital file that is over-written in (c) comprises multiple spaced  
blocks of the memory cells associated with the stored digital file.

9. The method of Claim 2 wherein the memory cells are arrayed in  
rows, columns, and layers in the three-dimensional memory array, and  
25 wherein (c) comprises over-writing a plurality of memory cells in different  
layers substantially simultaneously.